



Afternoon Alert - Monday, June 19, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks led with reports that a car plowed into a crowd in northern London on Sunday, injuring many people. One suspect has reportedly been arrested. Fuji TV led with a report on the results of its weekend poll showing that public approval for the Abe cabinet dropped 8.5 points from last month to 47.6%, while nonsupport rose 8.2 points to 42.9%. The network said this is the first time in 11 months for public support for the cabinet to drop below 50% .

## SECURITY

### U.S. Navy finds bodies of seven missing sailors

All networks reported at noon that the U.S. Navy announced on its website that it found the bodies of all seven sailors who were missing after the collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged container ship chartered by Nippon Yusen off Shizuoka early Saturday morning. NHK said the Japan Coast Guard will work with the U.S. side to confirm the cause of death of the sailors and investigate the accident. The network said that in response to the incident, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson will arrive in Japan tomorrow and visit the Yokosuka base.

- [1st antiterror drill held at nuclear plant for drone attack](#) (Jiji)

- [Gov't considering seeking damages from Onaga to pay litigation costs](#) (Sankei)
- [Kansai takes measured view on missile drills](#) (The Japan Times)
- [One governor willing to accept Okinawa's base hosting burden, survey](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

## **POLITICS**

### **Suga comments on drop in cabinet support rate**

TBS reported at noon that in response to the drop in public support for the Abe cabinet registered by all the opinion polls conducted over the weekend, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters today: "We should not react with undue apprehension to the results. It is important that we steadily implement the policies necessary for the people by providing clear explanations of each policy to the public." The network said the latest Kyodo poll showed that public approval for the cabinet fell 10.5 points from last month to 44.9%, and all other media polls also showed significant drops in cabinet support.

### **Senior ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss Kake Gakuen scandal**

NHK's "Nichiyō Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion by senior ruling and opposition lawmakers on the scandal involving Kake Educational Institution (Kake Gakuen). LDP Deputy Secretary General Shimomura stressed that although Prime Minister Abe is taking the lead in promoting regulatory reform, he did not issue specific instructions to give preferential treatment to the institution, which is run by his close friend. Komeito Deputy Secretary General Saito stated that there was nothing wrong with the GOJ's approval of Kake's application for the establishment of a veterinary school in a national strategic zone because it was discussed thoroughly at an advisory panel on special deregulation zones. Nippon Ishin Secretary General Baba emphasized that efforts to promote deregulation should not be discouraged. However, Democratic Party Secretary General Noda insisted that the GOJ should agree to summon to the Diet as a sworn witness former Vice Education Minister Maekawa, who disclosed the existence of internal documents indicating Abe's influence over the administrative process. Japanese Communist Party Secretariat head Koike argued that it is absolutely necessary for the Abe administration to provide further explanations on the matter in the Diet even though the ordinary session ended on Sunday.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 18](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 17](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 16](#) (Nikkei)

- [Main points of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee intensive session, June 16](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Denials shed little light in Abe's Kake school scandal](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's corporations make strides to foster inclusive LGBT work environment](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Kantei's control over bureaucracy through personnel affairs creates strain](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Planned cabinet reshuffle to be indicator of timing for Lower House election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition pushes for further scrutiny of Abe favoritism claims](#) (Kyodo News)
- [With his party in charge, Abe boasts 95% legislative success rate](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Diet should stay on top of Kake scandal even during recess](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Ruling bloc cannot be allowed to draw a curtain over Kake scandal](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Clearly explain regulatory reforms related to Kake vet school issue](#) (The Japan News)
- [Revised law big step in anti-terror fight](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Continued efforts needed to nip terror, organized crime in bud](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Dark cloud over the nation](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe forges ahead with SDF provision for Japan's constitution](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [DP Tokyo chapter to endorse party defectors in Tokyo assembly election](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [LDP's Tanigaki preparing for comeback](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't names Kawachi as new vice-minister at Cabinet Office](#) (Nikkei)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate drops 12 points to 49%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cabinet support rating drops to 41%, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)

## INTERNATIONAL

### Visit to Northern Territories postponed until tomorrow

All networks reported at noon that the planned visit today by former residents to their ancestors' graves in the Northern Territories by air was cancelled due to thick fog on Kunashiri Island and is now rescheduled for tomorrow. About 70 former residents had planned to travel on a chartered Russian airplane to visit five locations on Kunashiri and Etorofu islands.

- [European foods may become cheaper in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [South Korea to examine comfort women agreement with Japan](#) (Asahi)
- [South Korea sounds out Japan on resuming fishing negotiations](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan refuses to attend AIIB meeting](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Abe planning trip to Denmark and three other nations in July](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, N. Korea diplomats briefly meet in Mongolia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Indonesia wants investment, not loans, minister says](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Hibakusha present 3 mil. signatures to protest nukes at U.N. confab](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [Editorial: Restrict steel imports citing threat to national security a risky move](#) (Nikkei)
- [Commentary: Public a willing audience for Abe's shallow show of progress](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's drug sector to unite for emerging-market push](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Upgraded cruise ship port to open in Yokohama in fiscal 2019](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

## SCIENCE

## Beware of “sleep debt”

Sunday's "NHK Special" ran a report on sleep deprivation, saying that a lack of sleep can lead to many serious diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and dementia. This not only applies to those who are severely sleep deprived due to busy schedules or stress, but also those who sleep 6 to 7 hours on a daily basis. Such people are actually increasing their risk of becoming sick or lowering their daily performance level because their hours of sleep fall slightly below the necessary amount per day. Researchers around the world refer to this as "sleep debt" and point out that resolving this problem is essential for extending healthy life expectancy.

## SOCIETY

- [Japan enacts law to toughen penalties for sex offenses](#) (Kyodo News)
  - [“Power harassment” consultations hit record high in FY '16](#) (Jiji Press)
  - [Sexual orientation remains a taboo subject in schools, leaving students in the dark](#) (The Japan Times)
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